JACK MILLER & NEAL ADAMS

JULY 1985
NO. 3

DEADMAN

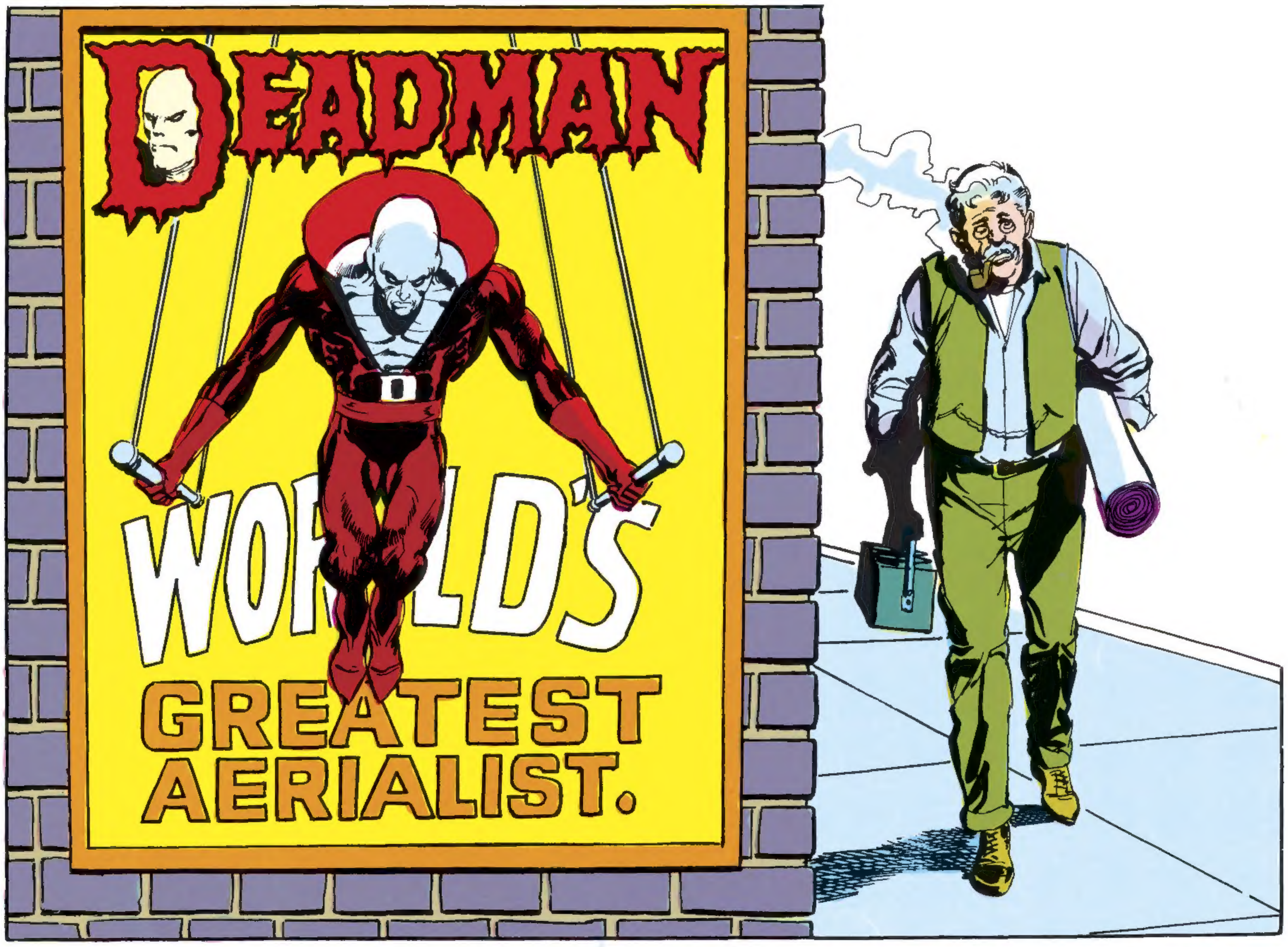
TM

NO-O-O! FIRST YOU KILLED ME! NOW YOU WANNA KILL THE ONLY WITNESS TO MY MURDER!

NEAL ADAMS

DEADMAN

I SWORE I WOULDN'T LET HIM DIE! I SWORE!



JACK MILLER ..... SCRIPT
NEAL ADAMS ..... ART

HILLS CIRCUS PRESENTS

Eagle

WORLD'S GREATEST AERIALIST

"HOW MANY TIMES CAN A GUY DIE?"

PART 3

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

"YOU SHALL LIVE, **BOSTON BRAND**, IN THE BODIES OF OTHERS--UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR KILLER AND AVENGED YOUR MURDER!"

ONCE **BOSTON BRAND** HAD BEEN ON TOP--NOW HE WAS NO MORE! MOST DEAD MEN ARE LUCKY, IN A WAY--THEY'RE SPARED THE AGONY OF WATCHING LIFE GO ON WITHOUT THEM! BUT NOT BOSTON BRAND--HE WAS THERE WHEN **EAGLE** TRIED TO FILL HIS SHOES! AND WHEN HE TRIED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO TRY AND TAKE BOSTON BRAND'S PLACE, EAGLE--YOU AIN'T MAN ENOUGH TO--!

I AIN'T, AIN'T I? WELL THINK THIS OVER, LUNK HEAD--BOSTON'S DEAD--AND **I'M** ALIVE! THE GREAT DEADMAN IS NOW A **DEAD** MAN, LIKE **I SAID** HE'D BE!

THEN--YOU DID IT, EAGLE--**YOU'RE** THE ONE WHO KILLED ME!

WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, TINY? EVER SINCE BOSTON DIED, YOU'RE NOT THE SAME GENTLE MAN... ALWAYS USING YOUR FISTS...

HUH?

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN BODY NOW, TINY. GOT TO THINK THINGS OUT!

HE'LL USE THAT HAM FIST OF HIS JUST ONCE TOO OFTEN--

LIKE I WAS SAYING, I DON'T WANNA FIGHT YOU, EAGLE--

OKAY, OKAY--GET LOST! I GOTTA TALK TO MISS LORNA --IN PRIVATE!

LOOK, BABY--MAYBE I WAS WRONG--RUSHIN' THINGS! YOU WANT ME TO LAY OFF THE LOVE BIT? OKAY!

THANKS, EAGLE ...LET'S BOTH FORGET WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE!

FORGET WHAT HAPPENED?!

HE KILLED ME! Y'HEAR? HE KILLED ME! MAYBE YOU CAN FORGET IT, BABY--BUT NOT ME! THAT WOULD BE ASKING TOO MUCH OF ANY CORPSE!

BUT, HONEY, YOU NEED A **MAN** TAKIN' CHARGE AROUND HERE-- Y'KNOW, LIKE **BOSTON** USED TO DO--LEMME TRY AND TAKE HIS PLACE--FOR **YOU**, LORNA--

DON'T BELIEVE 'IM, LORNA--HE'S LYIN' THROUGH HIS TEETH--

THANKS, EAGLE-- I KNEW YOU WERE OKAY!

AND I'LL BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP YOU GIVE ME!

THAT'S TALKIN', SWEETIE! WITH **ME** IN CHARGE, YOUR TROUBLES ARE ALL OVER!

BUT **YOUR** TROUBLES ARE JUST **BEGINNING**, PAL...

...AND THEY WON'T **END** UNTIL I'VE NAILED YOU...

UNTIL YOU CONFESS TO YOUR CRIME OF MURDER... **MY MURDER!**

AND NOW TO SMOKE YOU OUT INTO THE OPEN, EAGLE ...BUT I'LL NEED SOME HELP--HMM...

HERE COMES PETE, ONE OF THE HANDS!

SORRY, OLD BUDDY--BUT I'VE GOTTA BORROW YOUR BODY!

DON'T WORRY--I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!

MAYBE THIS WILL SMOKE YOU OUT, YOU **SPARROW**--

Eagle
WORLD'S GREATEST AERIALIST

AGLE

Someone knows all about yours crime, Eagle--and that someone is me!

YEAH--THIS SHOULD GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT--

--AND YOUR GUILTY CONSCIENCE WILL MAKE YOU START TRYING TO COVER UP YOUR TRACKS... MAKE YOU SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE AROUND--

AND **I'LL** BE AROUND, WATCHING YOU EVERY MINUTE--UNTIL YOU GIVE YOURSELF AWAY...

...AND THEN I'LL MOVE IN ON YOU--AND I'LL MAKE YOU SORRY YOU EVER PULLED THAT TRIGGER--

I'LL MAKE YOU WISH **YOU** WERE DEAD, EAGLE!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

EAGLE! H-HE'S COME BACK SOONER THAN I EXPECTED!

I'VE GOT LESS THAN 10 SECONDS TO CUT OUT OF HERE!

WILL MY PLOY WORK? **WILL IT?**

IT WORKED!

HE STOPPED! THAT'S STRANGE, HE'S TEARING THE NOTE IN HALF. NOW WHY...

R-RIP

WHERE'S HE GOING NOW? THE ONLY TENT IN THAT DIRECTION IS **VASHNU'S!**

ALL RIGHT, VASHNU, YOU'RE THE HANDWRITING EXPERT. HERE, ANALYZE THIS AND TELL ME WHO WROTE IT... FAST!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, MR. EAGLE, BUT TO IDENTIFY IT I MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO COMPARE IT WITH. I...

UH, OH.

BY THE SWEETNESS OF RAMA KUSHNA, IT CANNOT BE...

WHAT IS IT? WHO IS IT? TELL ME!

NO...

Forever Brave affidavit

EVEN IF I BELIEVE MY OWN SENSES, I WOULD NOT TELL YOU WHO WROTE THIS! NOR WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I DID!

IDIOTIC FAKER!

PART 4

How Many Times Can A Guy DIE?

LOOKS TO ME LIKE EAGLE HAD A COHORT OR TWO--AND IS ON HIS WAY TO REPORT THAT NOTE I LEFT HIM!

WE CAN'T--NOT ***TONIGHT***, ANYHOW! EVERYTHING'S ALL SET TO GO!

MIKE'S RIGHT, EAGLE! WE ***CAN'T*** TURN IT OFF NOW!

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

DON'T ASK ***ME*** HOW ANYONE GOT WISE! SOMEONE ***DID***, THAT'S ALL--

--AND THAT MEANS, WE'D BETTER LAY LOW FOR A WHILE!

IN FACT, IT'S ABOUT TIME TO MOVE RIGHT NOW! LET'S GO!

WHATEVER THEY ***ARE*** TALKING ABOUT--IT'S NOT ***MY*** MURDER!

BUT I'VE GONE ***THIS*** FAR, I MAY AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY!

LEAD THE WAY, EAGLE--I'M RIGHT ON YOUR TAIL!

I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE PETE FOR A WHILE!

NIGHT IN THE CITY...AND A BIRD OF PREY TAKES WING...

WELL, WELL, THE JEWELRY CENTER BUILDING! **THE PLOT THICKENS!**

GOTTA HAND IT TO EAGLE--HE **IS** THE GREATEST--

NOW THAT **I'M** GONE!

AND, AFTER THE BIRD OF PREY FEASTS...

PRETTY CRAFTY, EAGLE--USING YOUR AERIALIST SKILL TO KNOCK OFF A JEWELRY OUTFIT 200 FEET UP IN THE AIR--

AND PRETTY SMART--USING THE CIRCUS AS A FRONT FOR HIS LITTLE RACKET!

SURE--THE COPS WILL ROAD-BLOCK EVERY HIGHWAY OUT OF TOWN-- BUT THEY'LL NEVER DREAM OF STOPPING A HARMLESS FLEA-BITTEN CIRCUS!

SMART!

NO WONDER YOU WANTED **ME** OUT OF THE WAY, EAGLE!

BUT NOW IT'S MY TURN TO GET **YOU** OUT OF THE WAY!

LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...DEADMAN HAS FOUND PETE AND ONCE AGAIN HAS ENTERED HIS BODY...

GO AHEAD AND COUNT YOUR LOOT... YOU WON'T KEEP IT LONG!

BECAUSE WHEN I TURN IT IN PERSONALLY, I'M ALSO GONNA TIP THE COPS ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TO **ME**, EAGLE!

BUT IT ISN'T UNTIL JUST BEFORE DAWN THAT...

THEY'RE FINALLY BREAKING UP--AND ABOUT TIME!

THE GRIM, PATIENT GAME CONTINUS UNTIL THE FIRST STREAKS OF LIGHT PEPPER THE NIGHT SKY, THEN...

HE'S GOTTA BE ASLEEP BY NOW!

LIKE A CAT, **DEADMAN** CREEPS INTO THE TENT, WHERE...

LUCKY FOR ME THEY DIDN'T DIVVY IT ALL UP! I'LL BE ABLE TO TURN THE LOOT OVER TO THE COPS BEFORE THEY EVEN FIND OUT IT'S BEEN LIFTED!

HUH??!

WHAT CAN BE UGLIER THAN THE FACE OF A MAN WHO'S HOLDING A GUN ON YOU?

WH-WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

A SNOOPER, EAGLE! ONE OF THE HANDS... I THINK HIS NAME IS PETE...SOMETHING!

ANY LAST WORDS, SNOOPER?

I COULD SAY--DON'T SHOOT THIS BODY--IT DOESN'T BELONG TO **ME!**

CLICK

BUT THIS IS NO TIME FOR **CRACKS!**

WHUMP

BLAM

YOU'RE PRACTICALLY **DEAD,** PAL!

YOU'RE **TELLING ME!**

BAD NEWS! ANOTHER GOON BEHIND ME!

LIKE TWIN RATTLESNAKES, **DEADMAN'S** HANDS STRIKE OUT...

THIS COULD MAKE A GREAT ACT, EAGLE!

PAW

COME ON, COME ON, FEET, YOU CAN MOVE FASTER THAN THIS--!

CALL THE COPS!

MAGIC WATCHMAN

WH-WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO--**WRITE YOU A LETTER?! CALL THE COPS!!**

HERE THEY COME!

GOTTA STALL FOR TIME! BUT **HOW??**

WE AIN'T LICKED YET, OLD BUDDY!

CHUNG

BANG BANG

BEEOW

BEEONG

TLING

HEY, STUPID-- AIN'T YOU EVER HEARD THE OLD SAYING-- **WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN?!**

NOT FOR A WHILE, GENIUS!

LIKE A CAT, DEADMAN LEAPS FROM CAB TO CAB AS THE FERRIS WHEEL REVOLVES...

SMART GUY!

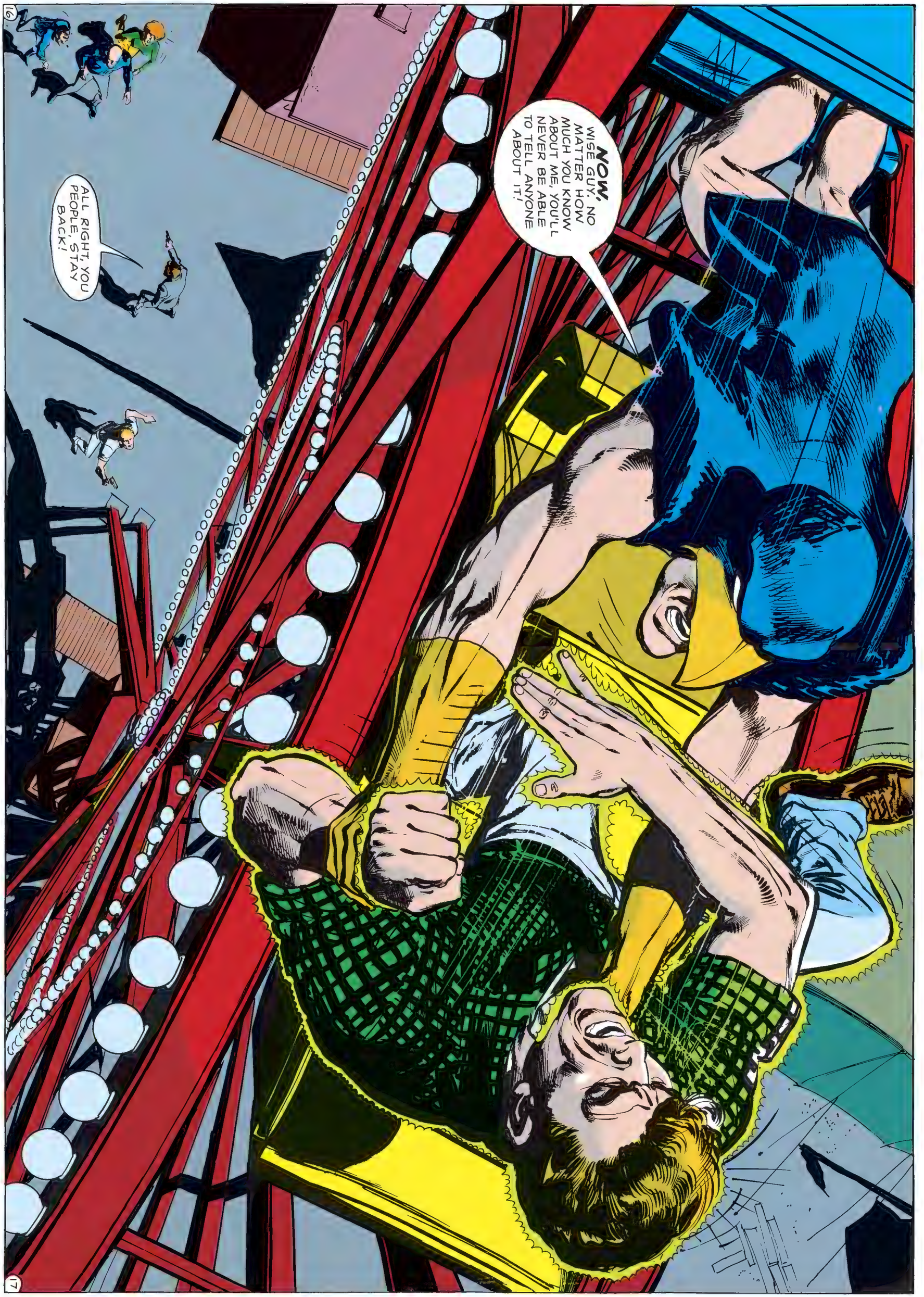
STOP THE WHEEL-- I'M GOIN' UP AFTER 'IM!

--AS LONG AS IT TAKES ME--

--TO REACH YOU, WISE GUY!

--I'LL TELL YOU, WISE GUY--

HOW MUCH TIME YOU GOT TO LIVE, WISE GUY?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ALL RIGHT, YOU PEOPLE, STAY BACK!
NOW. WISE GUY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT!
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LET GO, BLAST YOU! **LET GO!** GET IT OVER WITH!

BOF

WHAM

NOT... JUST... YET... **EAGLE!**

EAGLE QUICKLY RECOVERS AND...

CHONK

THIS BODY'S REFLEXES... TOO SLOW!

FOR THAT, WISE GUY... I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YOU BEFORE I SEND YOU DOWN **AIR EXPRESS!**

BRAAK

BODY... CAN'T TAKE IT MUCH LONGER. ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

THAT'S IT, **RUN!** BUT WHERE CAN YOU RUN... **HA-HA-HA!**

IF I CAN CONCENTRATE LONG ENOUGH, I CAN GO FROM **THIS** BODY TO **HIS** AND...

BUT AS DEADMAN LEAVES PETE'S BODY, THE CONSCIOUSNESS SEEMS TO DRAIN OUT WITH HIM, AND EAGLE, SENSING VICTORY, PREPARES TO HURL HIS OPPONENT OVER THE SIDE...

THIS IS IT, WISE GUY!

UH-OH-- NOT TIME ENOUGH TO MAKE THE SWITCH! GOT TO GET BACK IN!

DEADMAN REGAINS CONTROL OF PETE'S BODY JUST AS EAGLE SWINGS HIM OUTWARD AND...

THE SIGN... UH-- GOT IT!

NOW JUST HOLD THAT POSE, EAGLE BABY!

WHAT NEXT, EAGLE?!

PLAM

THIS IS WHAT'S NEXT, WISE GUY. YOU GOT GUTS, BUDDY, BUT GUTS JUST AIN'T ENOUGH TO BEAT ME. YOU'RE FINISHED!

CHUK

HE'S RIGHT-- I GOTTA--FIGHT BACK! DON'T LET ME DOWN, PETE--DON'T DON'T LET ME DOWN NOW--

WRUMP

UH...COME ON, BABY--DON'T LET HIM KILL **YOU** THE WAY HE KILLED **ME!** --HANDS LIKE DEAD WEIGHTS!

BUT THE **FLESH** IS UNEQUAL TO THE **SPIRIT!**

HA-A-AAA!

ARGHHH!

AND IN HALF THE TIME IT TAKES A HEART TO MAKE A SINGLE BEAT, DEADMAN ENTERS TINY'S BODY, AND...

OOOOOF

TINY! YOU GOT THE **MUSCLE POWER** TO DO IT--! IF I HAVE THE **TIME**...

OH, PETE-- BECAUSE **I** BORROWED YOUR BODY--**YOU'RE** GONNA **DIE**!

OUTTA THE WAY, TINY--OR YOU GET IT TOO!

YOU CAN'T-- NOT IN FRONT OF WITNESSES!

OKAY! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, STAY THERE AND GET BLASTED *WITH* THE WISE GUY!

I--I'M--ALL-OUT-OF-TRICKS!

SO PETE DIES-- SO TINY DIES-- SO *EVERYBODY* DIES!

OKAY, YOU GUYS --DROP THOSE GUNS!

OH, THOSE BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL COPS!

AND NOW TO FINGER EAGLE AS--MY KILLER!

IF YOU'LL LOOK IN EAGLE'S PLACE, YOU'LL FIND THE LOOT FROM THAT JEWELRY JOB, CAPTAIN!

AND THAT'S NOT ALL--!

YOU'RE TELLING **ME** THAT'S NOT ALL --**I KNOW IT!** **EAGLE** PULLED THE SAME KIND OF CAPER ON THE WEST COAST BACK ON SEPTEMBER 10!

B-BUT THAT WAS THE DAY **I** WAS KILLED!

THEN--THEN-- IT **WASN'T EAGLE** WHO DID IT!!

THEN--**WHO DID? WHO DID??**

WHO DID?... *MAYBE WE'LL ALL FIND OUT IN THE WEIRDEST TALE OF THEM ALL,* ***"HIDE AND SEEK!"***

"FOR MANY YEARS, MY VILLAGE HAD BEEN UNDER THE TYRANNICAL RULE OF ONE SORCERER SINISTER, A DEMON OF THE **BLACK ARTS** THAT HAD NO MERCY FOR THE LOWLY 'PEASANTS' THAT WERE HIS TO COMMAND... SORELY WERE WE TEMPTED TO REBEL, BUT WE KNEW THAT NONE WHO STOOD AGAINST THE **BLACK WIZARD** LIVED TO RELATE THE TALE..."

PAWNS OF MY POWER... HOW YOU **HATE** ME! PLOT--PLAN AGAINST MY CONTROL... BUT 'TIS TO NO **AVAIL!**

AS LONG AS I POSSES THE **STAR RUBY,** THERE IS NONE IN THE LAND WHOSE STRENGTH CAN **PREVAIL** AGAINST ME...

SQUIRM, WORMS... BEND BENEATH MY SLIGHTEST WHIM... FOR YOUR DAYS, NAY, YOUR VERY **LIVES,** ARE NOT YOUR OWN...

SECOND PART CHOICE 2

SCRIPT: GERRY CONWAY ART: GIL KANE — NEAL ADAMS

"THE WIZARD'S CASTLE! YOUR NAME IS HENRY LANSBURY, SON OF A SCHOLAR, AND YOU JOURNEY TO MEET YOUR DESTINY..."

KREEEEEEEEEEE

I KNOW NOT WHAT DANGERS YOU MAY THROW IN MY PATH, BLACK DEVIL, BUT NAUGHT WILL ST--

KREL

EH? WHAT--

"AND OUT OF THE GATHERING TWILIGHT, A SCREAM AND A BEAST FROM THE PITS OF DARKNESS!"

KREEEEEEEEEEE

WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE SEVEN SATANS--

"THE MONSTER'S TALONS REACH OUT, RIPPING AT YOU..."

EE-UNNNH!

IS THIS THE BIRD OF DEATH THAT KILLED MY FATHER?

COME, WINGED ONE... COME TO MEET YOUR DOOM!

"RAISING YOUR SWORD, YOU WAIT AS THE BEAST ARCS PAST YOUR FEINT, AND THEN..."

DIE, MONSTER!

DIE, HELL-SPAWN!

DIE, EVIL INCARNATE!

DO YOU TREMBLE IN YOUR CHAMBER, WIZARD, TO KNOW THAT DEATH HOVERS SO CLOSE TO YOUR DOOR?

DARE YOU LET ME ENTER, WIZARD? *DARE YOU?*

SAINTS! WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY IS THIS?

"A MOMENT OF DISORIENTATION, AND ONCE MORE YOU FEEL SOLID GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET, HENRY LANSBURY..."

A SIMPLE *DISSOLUTION SPELL*, HENRY LANSBURY!

AYE--AND I KNOW THAT YOU'RE DOOMED TO *FAILURE*, PEASANT--

FOR I POSSESS THE *STAR RUBY*, AND ITS POWER IS *SUPREME!*

YOU KNOW MY NAME?

THEN YOU KNOW WHY I HAVE COME!

WRONG, MAGICIAN! ONLY THE POWER OF GOD IS SUPREME!

BUT THE POWER OF SATAN IS MORE DESTRUCTIVE, FOOL--AS YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU STAND ON...

...THE EDGE OF HELL!

NO, KNAVE... DEMONS ABOVE!

YOU COME TO MEET YOUR DOOM, SORCERER!

DEMONS BELOW!

WITH THAT-- THAT PETTY POINTER?

BEHOLD MY *CONTEMPT* FOR YOUR KNIFE... A SIMPLE SPELL ENWRAPS IT IN THE *MISTS OF MINIFOR*...

AND BEFORE YOUR EYES...

GONE!

DO YE NOT REALIZE THE WONDERS AGAINST WHICH YE THROW YOURSELF?

I TAKE YE *BAREHANDED!*

YOU'LL NOT HAVE MY BLOOD, AS YE HAD THE BLOOD OF MY FATHER, *BLACK SON OF EVIL!*

WHAT TRUTH? I KNOW YE FOR WHAT YOU ARE-- THE MURDERER OF MY FATHER AND COUNTLESS OTHERS!

FOOL...

BLIND FOOL... MUST IT BE SPELLED OUT--

*"EVEN AS THE TYRANNICAL WIZARD TUMBLES INTO THE **HELL PIT**, YOU SEE TO YOUR HORROR THE FACE BENEATH THE MASK..."*

NOW, VILE ONE... I ...*FATHER!*

FATTTTHHHEERR!

NO, NO, YOU LITTLE FOOL-- NOOOOO!

EEEEEYYYAAAHHH!

FOOL! DO YOU NOT KNOW THE TRUTH EVEN YET? ARE YE SO BLIND TO THAT AROUND YOU?

"AS YOU STARE IN FROZEN HORROR, THE MAN WHO ONCE COULD CALL YOU SON FADES FROM VIEW..."

WHY--WHY DID HE DO IT?

HE MUST HAVE WON HIS WAY AGAINST THE WIZARD THOSE MANY YEARS AGO...

"AND THEN YOU SEE IT, AS YOUR FATHER BEFORE YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO..."

THE SUPREME POWER--THE SUPREME GLORY...

A TEMPTING, NEAR-OVERPOWERING PRIZE--TO BE SUPREME, TO OWN THE WORLD... MUST HAVE BEEN TOO TEMPTING FOR A MAN SUCH AS MY FATHER, A GLORY SEEKER ...A MAN LIKE MY FATHER...

...A MAN LIKE *ME!*

"AND THEN THE PRINTED WORD HAS FINISHED ITS TALE, AND THE NIGHT DRAWS TO ITS CLOSE..."

INEVITABLE... NOT THE WAY I WOULD HAVE IT TURN OUT... BUT INEVITABLE, NONE THE SAME...

ONLY A MAN POSSESSED WITH A GREAT EGO SEEKS GLORY OVER RIGHTEOUSNESS...

AND SUCH A MAN IS A PRIME SUBJECT TO PERSONAL, EGO-BOOSTING TEMP-TATION...

THE FATES WORK IN STRANGE WAYS, CAIN, AND, INEVITABLY, THEIR WAYS ARE *BEST*...

DEADMAN

"YOU SHALL LIVE-- IN THE BODIES OF OTHERS-- AND WALK AMONG MEN--UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR KILLER!"

SHOPS

THE CITY--IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT-- AND A **GHOST** STALKS THE LONELY, EMPTY STREETS... BUT THE PHANTOM'S HEART IS FILLED WITH THE BURNING HEAT OF REVENGE... AS HE PLAYS A SOLO, GRIM GAME OF ...

DON'T WALK

HIDE AND SEEK

JACK MILLER.....SCRIPT
NEAL ADAMS.....ART

SILENT FOOTSTEPS TREAD THE GLISTENING ROAD... SOUNDLESS CRIES EMANATE FROM A MAN INVISIBLE TO HUMAN EYES...

HOW LONG MUST I GO ON SEARCHING FOR MY KILLER? WILL I HAVE TO HUNT THE WHOLE BLASTED COUNTRY--?

WHAT ARE THE *COPS* DOING ABOUT IT? IT'S THEIR JOB, ISN'T IT?

HEY... MAYBE THEY *ARE* WORKING ON IT!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

LOOK AT 'EM--A FAT LOT *THEY* CARE THAT THEY GOT AN UNSOLVED MURDER ON THEIR HANDS!

AHH, WHAT AM I TALKIN' ABOUT?! DID I EXPECT THE WHOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE ASSIGNED TO *MY* LOUSY CASE?

PRECINCT 18, A FORTRESS OF HOPE AND DESPAIR TO THE ENDLESS LINES OF TROUBLED SOULS THAT PASS IN AND OUT OF ITS GRIMY DOORS...

AFTER ALL-- WHO WAS *I*--? JUST AN UNEDUCATED, NO 'COUNT ACROBAT FROM A RUN-DOWN, CIRCUS!

RECORDS

THERE'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

"*RECORDS*"... THE GRAVEYARD OF HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS LABELED *EVIL, DANGEROUS, MISSING,* **DEAD!**

...BRAMWELL...BRANCH...BRANCO... HERE I AM--*BRAND!*... SHOT AND KILLED, SO FORTH AND SO FORTH, 2 O'CLOCK ON THE DAY OF...SO FORTH AND SO FORTH...

HUMAN EYES CANNOT SEE THE STRANGE GLOW SURROUNDING *DEADMAN* WHEN HE TAKES OVER THE BODY OF ANOTHER.

SORRY, SARGE, I'M GONNA HAVE TO USE YOU FOR A SHORT TIME...

AH! HERE'S THE GUY I WANT--DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO CASE-- DETECTIVE MICHAEL RILEY!

OKAY, DETECTIVE RILEY--NOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOUR PAD IS-- SO I CAN PAY YOU A LITTLE VISIT AND FIND OUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOIN' ABOUT SOLVIN' MY MURDER!

PERSONNEL

WHAT'S THIS? IT SAYS HERE RILEY WAS ***DIS-HONORABLY DISCHARGED*** FOR--FOR-- "USING EXCESSIVE CRUELTY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY"!

THE PUNK WHO USED EXCESSIVE CRUELTY ON ***ME*** WASN'T *DISCHARGED!*

NO--HE'S STILL FREE AS A BIRD!

OKAY, RILEY-- LET'S SEE WHAT ***YOU'VE*** GOT TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS!

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR BODY BACK. YOU OUGHT TO CUT OUT THOSE ONION SANDWICHES, SARGE. *Whew!*

IT IS DAWN WHEN ***DEADMAN*** ARRIVES AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FILE CARD, AND SOON, IN A SECOND-FLOOR FLAT...

OH, GREAT! I GOT A QUITTER ON MY HANDS!

LOOKS LIKE RILEY SAVED HIS NEWS CLIPPINGS!

NOW I CAN FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

DETECTIVE FOUND GUILTY FIRED"

DETECTIVE MICHAEL RILEY

SWIFTLY, DEADMAN'S EYES SCAN THE ALREADY YELLOWING PAGE...

The incident was observed by two witnesses...one of them, Peter Bones, a former boxer...

Although the hoodlum surrendered without a fight, Detective Riley began pummeling him unmercifully...

OKAY, BUDDY-- REACH!

D-DON'T GET ROUGH! I GIVE UP!

OOF! NO MORE, NO MORE!

...and the other witness, Roy Martin, who described himself as a dock worker...

DEADMAN READS ON-- THEN, SUDDENLY, HE FREEZES...

"AT THE TRIAL, MARTIN, WHO WEARS A BEARD AND HAS AN ARTIFICIAL ARM WITH A HOOK, TESTIFIED THAT... "

--A HOOK!

THE GUY WHO GAVE IT TO ME WORE A HOOK!

THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO CLICK INTO PLACE!

RAGE BEGINS TO BOIL THROUGH THE GHOSTLY VEINS OF DEADMAN...

YOU'RE THE GUY, ROY MARTIN--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ERASED ME! SURE-- I SEE IT ALL NOW--

--RILEY HERE WAS GETTING CLOSE TO YOU--SO YOU FRAMED HIM, TO GET 'IM OUTTA THE WAY!

HERE I COME, MARTIN-- SOON AS I GET YOUR ADDRESS!

BUT MARTIN'S ADDRESS ISN'T GIVEN-- ONLY PETER BONES! ...OKAY, BONES, YOU GOTTA BE IN ON THE FRAME, TOO!

BUT I'LL NEED A BODY--

--AND YOU'RE ELECTED, RILEY!

MAYBE THIS'LL DO YOU SOME GOOD, RILEY-- AS WELL AS ME!

BETTER GET HIM CLEANED UP. WHAT AN UGLY KISSER, RILEY. HOPE THE SHAVE HELPS!

THERE IS NO NAME PLATE IN THE HALL OF PETE BONES-- IT ISN'T THAT KIND OF A BUILDING... BUT ***DEADMAN*** FINDS HIS MAN ANYWAY...

HI, BONES! COME TO PAY YOU A LITTLE VISIT!

HUH? OH, IT'S ***YOU!***

WHAT YOU DOIN' IN HERE ?

OH, I WAS JUST THINKIN', BONES--

-- YOU KNOW, ABOUT THAT NIGHT YOU SAID YOU SAW ME HANDING A BEATING TO THAT CROOK--

LOOK, RILEY--THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!

YOU LOST THAT ONE-- SO FORGET IT!

THAT'S WHAT ***I*** HAD TO LEARN TO DO--WHEN I WAS IN THE RING! YUH LOSE ONE-- FORGET IT!

YEAH, YEAH-- BUT MAYBE ***I'M*** A SORE LOSER, BONES!

AND MAYBE I DON'T LIKE A ***FRAME*** ANY-MORE THAN ***YOU*** ONCE LIKED A ***FIXED FIGHT!***

GET LOST, COPPER-- YOU'RE RAVIN'!

WAIT A MINUTE, BONES--

MIND IF I COME ALONG, BONES?

SHORTLY...

OKAY, OKAY, PALS--I KNOW YOU'RE HUNGRY!

THAT'S WHY PAPA'S HERE--TO FEED YUH!

LEGGO!..

UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FAT LIP! I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YOU NO MORE--BESIDES, I GOT SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT TO DO!

DO WHAT YOU WANT! IT'S A FREE COUNTRY!

THERE Y'ARE, BABIES--GO ON--HAVE YER BREAKFAST!

AIN'T THEY CUTE, RILEY? YOU KNOW SOMETHIN'? THEY'D *DIE*--IF IT WASN'T FER *ME*!

SURE, THEY'RE JUST LIKE A BUNCH OF LITTLE KIDS!

WH-WHY--THE PUNCH-DRUNK COOT--HE--HE THINKS HE'S ANSWERING THE BELL FOR ROUND ONE!

THIS FIGHT WON'T LAST LONG, YOU MUG!

BUT WHEN THE SOUND REACHES THE ROOFTOP...

FIVE FLOORS BELOW, ON THE ROAD--AN UNRELATED EVENT--A MOTORIST IS ABOUT TO CHANGE THE TIRE ON HIS CAR...

CLANG

CHOK

OOF!

MAN, THIS GUY CAN HIT!

WHOOOSH

IN FACT-- HE COULD KILL ME-- IF I LET HIM!

WHAM

OOF!

BUT FROM THE FUZZY DEPTHS OF HIS PAST RING SAVVY, BONES FEINTS WITH THE LEFT, THEN...

GRAK

THAT SOUNDS BETTER-- COMIN' FROM YOU, BONES!

AWK

KRASH!!

SQUAUK

AAAWK

HEY! HEY-- YOU CRAZY KIDS! COME ON BACK! COME ON BACK!

BUT THE PLEADING VOICE IS CHOKED OFF WHEN...

WHAM

AND SUDDENLY, ALL THE FIGHT IS GONE OUT OF THE BRAWNY PUG, AS...

NAAA... NO MORE... THE FIGHT'S OVER! CAN'T YOU HEAR THE FINAL BELL?... DON'T HIT ME NO MORE --

I NEEDED THE DOUGH, RILEY-- NEEDED IT BAD-- TO FEED MY KIDS-- YOU JUST SAW HOW THEY DEPEND ON *ME!*

-- AND HE SAID HE'D GIVE IT TO ME IF --IF I TESTIFIED I SAW YOU BEATIN' THAT GUY!

SURE, SURE-- THE FIGHT'S OVER, BONES-- AND SOON WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE DRESSING ROOM AND GIVE YOU A GOOD RUB-DOWN--

BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA TELL ME THE TRUTH, BONES-- THE *TRUTH!*

WHO, BONES? WHO SAID? *WHO FRAMED ME?*

YOU KNOW--ROY MARTIN--*THE HOOK!*

AH!... THE HOOK!...

AT LAST!

ONE MORE QUESTION, BONES--WHERE CAN I FIND **THE HOOK?** WHERE'S HE LIVE?

OH--JUST TWO DOORS AWAY! NUMBER 306-SECOND FLOOR! BUT HE AIN'T A BAD GUY, RILEY! HE KEPT HIS PROMISE! HE BOUGHT ME THIS BIRD SEED!

YOU STAY RIGHT THERE, BONES--DON'T MOVE OFF THIS ROOF, UNDERSTAND? I GOTTA MAKE A PHONE CALL!

SOON, DOWN ON THE STREET, *DEADMAN'S* NERVES ARE TINGLING! FOR HIM, AN ETERNITY WITHOUT TORMENT IS PRACTICALLY AROUND THE CORNER...

YEAH, LIEUTENANT--ENOUGH TO CLEAR *ME*--AND GIVE US THE KILLER OF *BOSTON BRAND!*

BE RIGHT THERE, RILEY!

AND NOW THE SIREN SINGS ITS SWEET SONG IN *DEADMAN'S* EARS!

WHERE'S PETE BONES NOW, RILEY?

ON THE ROOF! I'LL SHOW YOU, SIR!

SKREEEE

HE'S DEAD, RILEY-- FROM A BAD BLOW WITH AN IRON BAR, OR SOMETHING--

--THE HOOK! H-HE MUST HAVE SPOTTED BONES SPILLING THE BEANS TO ME!

IN A WAY, BONES KEPT HIS WORD TO WAIT ON THE ROOF--HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER...

HE-- WON'T-- BE--BACK-- KID!

ARE YOU KIDDING? I QUESTIONED HIM MYSELF! BEARD, THICK GLASSES, UGLY PUNK!

KILLER-- HERE I COME!

BUT, WHEN THE LAWMEN FINALLY ENTER "THE HOOK'S" ROOM...

HE BEAT IT, LIEUTENANT!

THAT'S OKAY-- WE'VE GOT A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF HIM! AND THERE'S THE MURDER WEAPON!

YOU SAID THE "HOOK" BEFORE, RILEY! DID YOU FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES?

TWO DOORS SOUTH, LIEUTENANT! WILL YOU KNOW 'IM WHEN YOU SEE HIM?

SURE-- YOU GOT A GOOD DESCRIPTION, LIEUTENANT--OF HIS *DISGUISE!*

DIG THIS, RILEY-- A TRAVEL FOLDER-- *SUNNY MEXICO!*

Sunny MEXICO TRAVEL BUREAU

I'LL NOTIFY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MARTIN--BUT I WISH I COULD SEND ALONG A DESCRIPTION!

THE FINGERPRINTS ON THAT CROWBAR ARE GOOD AND CLEAR! THEY SHOULD HELP!

...ANYWAY, RILEY-- THIS CLEARS **YOU**-- WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?

SURE, LIEUTENANT, SURE--!

END.

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NEXT ISSUE:

DEADMAN

IS REBORN IN

"THE FATAL CALL of VENGEANCE"